

Message Text

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R 260003Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:AORG, UNESCO

SU0JECT: DRAFT DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERN-
ING THE 6E OF THE MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND IN COMBATING WAR PROPAGANDA,
RACISM AND APARTHEID

REF: STATE 125614

HEREWITH IS THE TEXT OF STATE 147961 DATED JUNE 16, 1976:

1. REFTEL EXPRESSED DEPARTMENT'S DEEP CONCERN RE THE SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION, WHICH IS FOR MOST PART UNACCEPTABLE TO U.S. AND, UNLESS DERAILED BY U.S. AND OTHERS, IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO BE ADOPTED BY 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF UNESCO AT NAIROBI THIS FALL. AFTER REVIEWING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF AVOIDING GC ADOPTION OF THE PRESENT DRAFT DECLARATION, DEPT. HAS DECIDED ON APPROACH OUTLINED BELOW.

2. RECOGNIZING THAT THE UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL (DG) IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE 19TH GC THE DRAFT DECLARATION APPROVED IN PARIS LAST DECEMBER AND THAT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT WE COULD WIN A SIMPLE MOTION TO DEFEAT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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TEXT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO WORK FOR DEFERRAL OF GC CONSIDERA-

TION OF THE TEXT AND HOPE TO PERSUADE DG TO RECOMMEND SUCH DEFERRAL WHEN HE SUBMITS TEXT TO 19TH GC.

3. A COMPELLING JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE THAT THE DECEMBER DRAFT DOES NOT REFLECT AGREEMENT AMONG A REPRESENTATIVE CROSS SECTION OF UNESCO MEMBERSHIP, WHICH WAS INTENTION OF 18TH GC IN CALLING FOR AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF EXPERTS. THE ANTI-ISRAELI DIFFICULTIES WHICH AROSE DURING THAT EXPERT MEETING RESULTED IN THE WALKOUT OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STATES HAVING MAJOR INTERESTS AND INFLUENCE IN WORLD-WIDE MASS MEDIA ACTIVITIES. AT LEAST PARTLY AS RESULT OF THIS, THE PRESENT TEXT DOES NOT REFLECT ANYTHING CLOSE TO A MEANINGFUL CONSENSUS, AND ITS ADOPTION WOULD SERVE ONLY AS A SOVIET PROPAGANDA TOOL AND AS ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION FOR CRITICS OF UNESCO WHO WILL POINT OUT THE STATIST NATURE OF THE PRESENT TEXT. IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT UNESCO HAS A GREATER INTEREST IN ADOPTING A MEANINGFUL AND BROADLY AGREED TEXT IN THIS AREA THAN IT DOES SIMPLY IN ADOPTING SOME TEXT, REGARDLESS OF ITS IMPACT, THIS YEAR.

4. IN THIS LIGHT WE BELIEVE THAT CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD STRONGLY URGE THE DG TO RECOMMEND TO THE GC THAT AN ADDITIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS MEETING BE CONVENED IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A BROADER CONSENSUS BEFORE A DRAFT DECLARATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE GC FOR APPROVAL.

(FYI: WE ARE FAR FROM SANGUINE THAT A NEW EXPERTS MEETING WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP AN ACCEPTABLE SINGLE DECLARATION TEXT OR THAT IF ONE WERE AGREED IT WOULD EVER BE ADOPTED BY THE GC, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A DELAY IN ADOPTION OF THE PRESENT DRAFT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW CONTINUING UNESCO CRISIS, WOULD BE TO OUR SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE AS WELL AS TO ADVANTAGE OF UNESCO. END FYI.)

5. WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO DEVELOP A SPECIFIC, ALTERNATIVE TEXT RATHER THAN TO ATTEMPT TO AMEND THE EXISTING ONE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT WOULD HAVE ANY CHANCE OF BEING ADOPTED BY THE 19TH GC, BUT THE EXISTENCE OF A WESTERN DRAFT MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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INDUCING THE 19TH GC TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THE PRESENT TEXT. ALSO, AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT WOULD AVOID THE RISK OF PRECIPITATING, AT AN EARLY STAGE, A MAJOR POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AS A RESULT OF THE PRIORITY NEED TO DELETE THE ZIONISM/RACISM REFERENCE WHICH IS IN THE PRESENT TEXT AND CAUSED THE WEO WALKOUT FROM THE DECEMBER EXPERTS MEETING. IN ADDITION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE TEXT REFLECTING BASIC PRINCIPLES ACCEPTABLE TO

THE U.S. AND OTHERS WHO DISAGREE WITH THE PRESENT DRAFT COULD BE QUITE HELPFUL BOTH IN PERSUADING THE DG TO RECOMMEND DEFERRAL AND IN GIVING OTHER UNESCO MEMBERS AN EXCUSE TO AVOID MAKING A DECISION ON THE PRESENT UNBALANCED DRAFT. DEPT. IS NOW IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT ATTRACT THIRD WORLD SUPPORT. PRECISELY WHAT WOULD BE DONE WITH SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT WOULD BE A TACTICAL DECISION TO BE MADE EARLY IN THE FALL, BUT WORK ON SUCH A TEXT IS REQUIRED ASAP IF BROAD AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IS TO BE REACHED AMONG WEO'S AND OTHERS IN TIME TO BE USEFUL.

6. WE HAVE INFORMALLY LEARNED THAT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR THE MASS MEDIA (CREATED MAY 6 BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS) MAY SOON BE REVIEWING THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL COULD BE A MOST CONVENIENT AND USEFUL FORUM IN WHICH EFFORTS TO OPPOSE THE DECEMBER 1975 DRAFT MIGHT BE FOCUSED, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS IN THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT, TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING WHAT KINDS OF PROVISIONS WE BELIEVE SUCH A TEXT SHOULD INCLUDE, AND IF THE COUNCIL'S MASS MEDIA COMMITTEE DECIDES TO ACT IN THIS AREA WE WOULD BE MOST WILLING TO JOIN WITH THAT GROUP IN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, DRAWING ON ABOVE AND ON REFTEL, EXPRESSING OUR SUPPORT FOR A POSSIBLE COUNCIL OF EUROPE INITIATIVE IN DEALING WITH THE UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION AND EXPRESSING OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING A UNIFIED AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH,
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INCLUDING AN ALTERNATIVE TEXT, TO AVOID GC ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 1975 TEXT.

8. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED, ASAP, OF RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS, WITH INFO. COPIES TO ALL ADDRESSEE POSTS. END OF STATE 147961.

9. FYI: ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: ANKARA, ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, NICOSIA, OSLO, PARIS, ROME, BERN, REYKJAVIK, STOCKHOLM, THE HAGUE, VALLETTA, VIENNA. INFO ADDRESSEES: MOSCOW, OTTAWA, STRASBOURG, NATO, USUN NEW YORK. END FYI. KISSINGER

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